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SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO IRAN

ANNCR: SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAS LEFT ON A WEEK-LONG TRIP WHICH WILL TAKE HIM TO IRAN, AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES HIS VISIT TO IRAN:

VOICE: SECRETARY KISSINGER IS GOING TO IRAN FOR TALKS WITH THE SHAH AND HIGH IRANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND TO ACT AS CO-CHAIRMAN FOR A MEETING OF THE JOINT AMERICAN-IRANIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL INDICATION OF WHAT EXACT TOPICS THEY WILL BE TALKING ABOUT. BUT IT IS KNOWN THAT IRAN WOULD LIKE TO BUY MORE ARMS FROM THE UNITED STATES -- AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR THE PURCHASE BY IRAN OF EIGHT AMERICAN NUCLEAR REACTORS.

BOTH SUBJECTS -- ARMS TO IRAN AND THE SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS TO OTHER COUNTRIES -- HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH IN THE NEWS HERE. A SENATE COMMITTEE STUDY, MADE PUBLIC LAST SUNDAY, WAS CRITICAL OF THE SALE OF ARMS TO IRAN, ARGUING THAT IT HAD BEEN BADLY MISMANAGED AND THAT IT POSED THE DANGER OF OVER-EXTENDING THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA, AND POSSIBLY DRAWING THIS COUNTRY INTO A FUTURE CONFLICT THERE. AS FOR THE SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS ABROAD, THAT WAS THE SXBJECT OF A TWO-DAY PUBLIC HEARING LAST WEEK -- DURING WHICH IT WAS ARGUED BY NUMEROUS WITNESSES THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST IMPOSE SAFEGUARDS TO MAKE SURE THESE REACTORS ARE USED FOR PEACEFUL AND NOT FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

SO, MR. KISSINGER'S VISIT TO IRAN WILL NO DOUBT BE WATCHED WITH SOMEWHAT MORE INTEREST THAN IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WITHOUT THESE DEVELOPMENTS IN WASHINGTON. HE HIMSELF HAS NOT COMMENTED

ON THE SENATE REPORT, BUT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE POINTED OUT THAT IRANIAN INDEPENDENCE IS A LONG-TIME CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT WASHINGTON HAS CONSIDERED IRAN -- ALONG WITH SAUDI ARABIA -- TO BE THE BEST GUARANTORS OF STABILITY IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA SINCE THE BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM THAT REGION. ASKED ABOUT THE CHARGES OF MISMANAGEMENT -- WELL, SAY THESE OFFICIALS, EVERY LARGE PROGRAM HAS ITS PROBLEMS. AS FOR THE POSSIBLE SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS TO IRAN, IT IS KNOWN THAT THE UNITED STATES IS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN PROPER SAFEGUARDS TO INSURE AGAINST MISUSE. BUT THERE HAVE BEEN LONG AND CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND THEY HAVE REACHED MANY AGREEMENTS IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE, ECONOMICS, CONSTRUCTION, FINANCE, AGRICULTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION. IT WOULD SEEM REASONABLE TO CONCLUDE THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE SUCCESSFULLY WHATEVER PROBLEMS THEY MAY HAVE IN OTHER AREAS.

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